

Through the sound and fury, Richard DeMary was brave and selfless; for his actions, he was awarded the Flight Safety Foundation's Heroism Award.

Deeds such as this summon within all of us a feeling of elation and humility. They are deeds that ask us to pause a moment and attempt to truly grasp the heights of human pathos and its deliverance, human courage.

SEVENTY-FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF
THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF THE UNITED STATES

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the League of Women Voters on 75 years of extraordinary service to our democracy.

In 1920, women throughout the Nation cast their first ballot for Congress and President of the United States, forever changing the character of our country and of our politics. It was the League of Women Voters which informed and engaged these millions of newly enfranchised citizens.

Today, the League of Women Voters has over 1,000 chapters with some 150,000 members, both women and men. It continues to shape our public dialogue through study of major policy questions, and through the encouragement of community service and participation.

In Westchester County, where I live, the League of Women Voters is a leading sponsor of progressive reforms. Each year, the league produces thousands of voter guides to help us make informed decisions, publishes a directory of elected officials, and sponsors scores of debates with ample opportunity for citizen involvement.

That vibrant tradition has helped produce leaders such as Ruth Hinerfeld, who rose to lead the national league organization after a long and successful experience with the Westchester chapter.

I am also very proud to say that the founder of the League of Women Voters, Carrie Chapman Catt, chose to spend the last decades of her life in New Rochelle. Today, the city of New Rochelle and its local league chapter are temporarily renaming Paine Avenue, where Mrs. Catt lived, League of Women Voters Avenue. It is a fitting tribute to a leader whose remarkable works continue to shape our lives.

Mr. Speaker, 75 years after its founding, the league's mission is as essential as ever. For though the right to vote is secure, the responsible exercise of that right remains an ideal for which we shall ever strive.

It is a pleasure to thank the league for all it has done, and all it will do.

THE MADISONVILLE METEOR'S
CENTENNIAL

HON. JOHN BRYANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. BRYANT of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to call to this body's attention the

history of one of the most enduring institutions in the Fifth Congressional District of Texas, which I am privileged to serve in this House of Representatives.

For the last century one of the major agricultural centers of this district has been Madison County and its county seat of Madisonville. And, not coincidentally, during the last 100 years that beautiful section of our State has been served, informed, and led by the Madisonville Meteor.

The Meteor publishes its centennial edition on the very appropriate date of February 22. That is, of course, the birthday of George Washington, the father of our country. While this part is pure coincidence, I am proud to note that George Washington, the Madisonville Meteor and I share the observance of the same birth date; however, I do stipulate that my birthday was several decades later than the Meteor's and a full 215 years after President Washington's.

Despite all of its accomplishments under the leadership of a century of dedicated publishers, editors, and staffers, the Meteor could be most proud of its biggest and longest-running error—the mistake it made in selecting its own name.

The story goes that the newspaper's founder, Thomas J. Stevens, showed up amid the rolling, tree-lined hills of Madison County with a wagon full of printing equipment and a plan to produce a newspaper that would be so full of local news and advertising that area residents would find it indispensable. Maybe so, Mr. Stevens' first hired man observed, but he personally figured the paper would be a short flash and then disappear, leaving no more than a footnote to the history of Madison County. Kind of like a meteor causing a quick flash, then disappearing forever, he reckoned.

So why not call it the Madisonville Meteor, reasoned the amused publisher?

A succession of publishers have enjoyed the irony of the name and the call to civic duty. Edna Keasling now publishes this venerable weekly that manages to retain its down-home charm and interests, while more than holding its own on the electronic lanes of the post-nuclear information superhighway.

Publisher Keasling has noted that of more than 5,000 issues of the Meteor, the two most popular and most consulted are the ones marking the centennial of Madison County, created in 1853 and organized in 1854, and the 50th anniversary of the Meteor.

There will be a strong new light glowing at the Meteor as Ms. Keasling, editor Daniel Humphries, sports editor Mark Kuchera, typesetter Melissa Fautheree, compositor Marta Nichols, bookkeeper-circulation staffer Deenna Tobias, circulation staffer Carolyn Standley and darkroom operator Martha Fautheree pool their talents on Wednesday, February 22, to present Volume 101, No. 1, of the Madisonville Meteor.

I join the Meteor's many other friends in anticipating the first edition of the misnamed but well-placed newspaper's second century.

As an enduring example of our Nation's unique marriage of free speech and the free market, the meteor has earned our thanks and congratulations. Just as it will when our descendants celebrate Volume 201, No. 1, of the Meteor as it begins its third century.

BIPARTISAN INITIATIVE TO REAUTHORIZE THE CLEAN WATER ACT

HON. JAMES A. HAYES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 16, 1995

Mr. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be a part of a bipartisan coalition of Members who have come together to present a balanced and reasonable strategy to reauthorize the Clean Water Act.

The legislation we are introducing today is the consequence of months of hard work last year building consensus among disparate parties to this debate. The States, cities, and counties, and the business and agricultural communities had significant input into our development process. The resultant product for the most part tracks language circulated as an alternative to last year's failed attempt to reauthorize, and just like our effort last year, its intent is to open up an honest dialog to draft a progressive and pragmatic plan. This proposal is just the starting point, and the continued participation and thoughtful analysis of all of the interested players is critical to helping us perfect this important legislation as it moves through the committee markup process.

This bill seeks to address the shortfalls as well as enhance the strengths of the current CWA programs. First and foremost, our proposal provides an affordable authorization level of \$10 billion for the State revolving fund over the next 6 years. In doing so, we propose, in a fiscally responsible manner consistent with the current budgetary climate, to provide needed funds to States to improve water quality, presenting a more accurate picture of what the Federal Government can afford in these areas, while maintaining high enough allocations to allow the programs to remain viable.

Another crucial area that this bipartisan initiative also intends to address is the nonpoint source section 319 program. Developing innovative strategies to address our nonpoint source problems without the onerous and often-counterproductive command and control regulatory overkill will be important to the future effectiveness of the entire Clean Water Program.

Finally, among the other important provisions of the bill is a long overdue effort to comprehensively resolve the enigma that is our Federal Wetlands Program. The obscure and burdensome section 404 permitting program would be revised to establish a system of multiclassifications that protects the most pristine wetlands and coastal marshes, while also preserving the rights of property owners to utilize those lands that are less valuable.

I firmly believe that too often—and the section 404 wetland permit program is a prime example—the institutional arrogance and ignorance of bureaucrats and government agencies has spawned ineffective and inflexible programs beyond the scope of their intended authorizations. These programs are neither cost effective nor improve the quality of our waters. We have forgotten that properly motivated individuals and businesses, rather than bureaucrats and politicians, are much better equipped to efficiently allocate financial and human resources toward the economic and